

HOPE IN IRAQ

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, an article in the *Centralia Sentinel* reads, "Former Centralia policeman finds hope in Iraq."

Joe Phoenix ended his 11-year career in February to join 1,000 other law enforcement officers from the U.S. hired by the Federal Government to train Iraqi police officers. In a brief visit home he states about the Iraqi people, "They are good people with good hearts and they love working with Americans," he said. "They consider it such an honor that we come over here and that we leave home and work with them. I have had nothing but cooperation from the people I am working with."

About the current challenges he states, "We are trying to get people trained and fortified so they can stand their ground. We need to get the Iraqi police in a better position to fight these guys."

And about the future, "Right now it is dangerous and it is probably going to get worse between now and January. They are going to try and stop the elections and show people we are not in control, but that is not going to happen. After the elections, I think things will slow down and get better."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Phoenix for his service. God bless him, and God bless the United States of America.

AMERICA NEEDS COMMANDER IN CHIEF, NOT CHEERLEADER IN CHIEF

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, a former CIA official recently said "The best we can hope for in Iraq is a failed state hobbling along." The State Department's official travel warnings says, "Iraq remains very dangerous." The national intelligence estimate from July said the best case scenario for Iraq was merely "tenuous stability."

A Kroll Security International study shows the number of attacks has increased from 40 per day to around 70 per day. Republican Senator CHUCK HAGEL said, "I do not think we are winning. We are in deep trouble in Iraq." Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "It is getting worse."

I know that the President is proud of the fact that he does not read newspapers, but can somebody please brief the President of the United States?

Today in the *Washington Post*, with all of the horrific news, there is a report that the administration is embarking on a new propaganda campaign "designed to be uplifting, with good news messages about Iraq."

Mr. Speaker, the American people need the truth about Iraq. The American people can handle the truth; the question is, can the President?

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the need to protect the definition of marriage for the future. While I wholeheartedly agree, I would like to offer a perspective from the past on the importance of marriage in America.

Alexis de Tocqueville perhaps provided the most comprehensive analysis of American society in the 1830s. He observed that there is certainly no country in the world where the tie of marriage is more respected than in America.

In 1885 the United States Supreme Court added its opinion stating, "Certainly no legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary in the founding of a free, self-governing commonwealth than that which establishes it on the idea of the family, consisting of the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony; the family is the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization."

Historically, marriage between one man and one woman has been the cornerstone of stable families. The marriage protection amendment will ensure that the definition of marriage in America does not change based upon the whim of an activist judge. It will protect the rights of each State and the will of the people. I urge Members to support the marriage protection amendment. It is necessary for the preservation of the historic institution of the family.

RUBEN MARTINEZ AWARDED MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIP

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate a very good friend of mine, Ruben Martinez, owner of Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery in Santa Ana, California, for being named a 2004 MacArthur Fellow.

How appropriate that during Hispanic Heritage Month, I have the opportunity to recognize such a successful Hispanic from my own district on this great honor. For more than 30 years, Ruben has been getting the youth of Orange County engaged in books and politics. What began as a haircutting venture, accompanied by political discussions with his clients, turned into a lifelong passion for selling books in both Spanish and English.

Today Libreria Martinez is one of the largest commercial sellers of Spanish-language books in the Nation. Authors and community members, both young and old alike, have made this shop a home.

The MacArthur Fellowship has been dubbed the "genius award" by some, and I can think of no one more deserving than Ruben. I thank him for his tireless work and his dedication in promoting readings and education in my hometown.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will debate and vote on the marriage protection amendment. Let us be clear, the debate today is not about denying anyone's rights. This is about ensuring the will of the people and protecting it. Forty-four States have already enacted laws defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman. South Carolina is one of these 44 States. The people of my State have already decided how they would like for marriage to be defined. So as a Representative I am wondering why the will of my constituents and that of over 70 percent of Americans nationwide should be tossed aside because of a few activist judges because they disagree.

Unfortunately, a handful of judges have already begun to amend our Constitution. They have circumvented the democratic process with their rulings. Therefore, the decision we are left with now is not whether the Constitution will be amended but who will amend it: activist judges or the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in supporting the marriage protection amendment. It is time we get the debate back where it belongs, with the American people.

GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the damage, pain, and suffering of the recent hurricanes slowly recede in the memories of most Americans, we would do well to remember that this is but a small taste of what is likely to occur given the increase in global warming.

A recent study by the Commerce Department's Geophysical Fluid Dynamic Lab in Princeton University, the most extensive to date, indicated that global warming is going to make it a lot worse. The typical hurricane is going to be one-half step greater on the 5-step scale, rainfall up to 60 miles away will be up to 20 percent more intense, and even if the number of storms remains the same, which is not at all